

A Collaborative Effort with the Civil Engineering Research Foundation

Recently, a new development occurred regarding the commercialization of antifreeze admixtures that will have a very positive influence on our FHWA pooled-fund study TPF-5(003) "Extending the Concrete Construction and Repair Season". I wish to share this development with you as it happens. I have been involved with the Civil Engineering Research Foundation (CERF) for a while. In case you are unfamiliar with this group (<http://www.cerf.org>), one of their missions is to "expedite the use of innovative technologies throughout the engineering and construction communities". They see antifreeze admixtures as a technology that will meet critical military and civil needs while holding commercial market potential. The major obstacle to commercialization is the lack of standards.

They are very interested in the technology to be generated by the pooled-fund study because it will establish the protocol for antifreeze admixture use and demonstrate that there is a market for this technology. Thus, they foresee our project as the beginning for the concrete industry to develop and standardize the use of antifreeze admixtures in winter concreting. That's great news for our project, as we'll be setting the pace for things to come. We are targeting off-the-shelf technology and they'll target the next-generation technology. We'll be able to use our pooled-fund technology immediately as no new chemicals will be involved. As with all good things, developing new standards, changing the direction of industry and creating a new approach to winter concreting will take CERF time to accomplish. With this in light, our pooled-fund effort becomes even more important to develop the protocol for CERF to build on. They are in the planning stage of heading up a task force, to include admixture manufacturers.

Currently, I am a member of a panel of experts assembled by CERF to develop a draft of what we hope will become the standard for using chemicals to allow concrete to cure at -5°C (the same goal in our pooled-fund project). The report, just completed a few months ago, is posted on the CERF web site at <http://www.cerf.org/pdfs/ceitec/lowtemp/plan.pdf>. We'll also add this information to our web site for your reference.

By being a part of this pooled-fund study, you are at the threshold of what is possible for winter concreting. Industry has taken an interest in this technology and is willing to build on what we accomplish. We find this to be a very exciting time as we embark on a whole new area in an effort to standardize antifreeze admixtures for concrete work. Your participation ensures success. We wanted you to know that CERF's interest has moved this technology to a new level and that CERF wants to work with us to build on what we accomplish in the next few years. We will gladly keep you posted on this as things develop.

Sincerely,

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Charles Korhonen